

SIXTEEN YEARS AGO:

CAPTURE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

How the President of the Southern Confederacy
Was Taken—The Famous Petticoat Sait—
Both Sides of the Story About
Woman's Attire.

To-day is the anniversary of the capture of Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern confederacy. When the downfall of the confederacy was seen to be a question of but a few days it is said that Mr. Davis resolved to gather all the fragments of armies possible and find or force his way to Mexico. After the surrender of Lee and Johnson Mr. Davis' followers became alarmed, and deserted in large numbers. At Washington, Ga., of his cabinet only Rengam remained. At that

point he and his family separated, they, however, taking a nearly parallel route for the Gulf in wagons. Soon after separating Mr. Davis was informed that a plot had been formed by Confederate renegades to seize Mrs. Davis' trunks, and he hastened to the rescue of his family and property. He rode rapidly eighteen miles, and overtook them as they were approaching Irwinsville, Ga. They had made their camp for the night, and

IN ONE OF THE TESTS

Mr. Davis lay down to rest, intending to return early in the morning. Mr. Davis was at that time the object of great interest, and to secure his capture the "Iron Colon" soldiers were anxious that about the terrible "Colon" With "honor"

the collapse of the confederacy would be assured. Besides, \$100,000 had been offered for his capture. General Wilson, at Macon, being informed of Mr. Davis' flight toward the Gulf, sent out two detachments of cavalry to endeavor to capture him. One was led by Lieutenant-Colonel Pritchard, of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry; the other by Lieutenant C. Hardin, of the First Wisconsin Cavalry. They traveled by different roads down the Oemul-

MISTOOK EACH OTHER FOR ENEMIES, and exchanged shots, killing two men and wounding several. The firing aroused the sleepers, and Mr. Davis was captured while attempting to escape. General Wilson, in his official report of the capture of Mr. Davis, thus tells the story: "Mrs. Davis and her sister, Miss Howell, after having clothed him in the dress of the former, and putting on his shoes, they fled from the camp."

holding each other's hands, started out, one holding each arm, and besought Colonel Pritchard's men in most piteous terms to let them take their poor old mother out of the way of the firing. Mrs. Davis said: "Oh, do let us pass with our poor old mother, who's so frightened and fears to be killed." One of Pritchard's men, catching sight of the President's boots, took the skirts of the dress, suspected at once who the poor old mother was, and replied: "Oh, no."

★

YOU DON'T PLAY THAT GAME on us. Those boots don't look much like they belong to a woman. Come down and fill 'em with flour."

gent C. E. L. Stuart, of Mr. Davis' staff, giving an altogether different version of the affair, which is probably the one accepted by Mr. Davis' friends and followers as the true story. Mr. Stuart says that when the musketry firing was heard in the morning, at dim gray dawn, it was supposed to be between the apprehended confederate marauders and Mrs. Davis' few camp-defender. Under this impression Mr. Davis hurriedly put on his boots and prepared to go out for the purpose of interposing, saying: "They will at least, as yet, respect me." As he got to the tent door, this hostile

equipped, he saw a few cavalry ride up the road and deploy in front. 'Ha, Federals,' was his exclamation.

'THEN YOU ARE CAPTURED,' cried Mrs. Davis, with emotion. In a moment she caught an idea, a woman's idea, and as quickly as women in an emergency execute their designs it was done. He slept in a wrapper, a loose one. It was yet around him. This she fastened ere he was aware of it, and then, bidding him adieu, urged him to go to the spring, a short distance off, where his horses and arms were. 'Strange as it

may seem, Mr. Stuart says, there was not even a pistol in the tent. Mr. Davis felt that his only course was to reach his horses and arms, and compile. As he was leaving the door, followed by a servant with a water-bucket, Miss Howell flung a shawl over his head. There was no time to remove it without exposure and embarrassment, and as he had not far to go he ran the chance, exactly as it was devised for him. "In these two articles," says Lieutenant Stuart,

"CONSISTED THE WOMAN'S ATTIRE,

of which so much nonsense has been spoken and

written, and under these circumstances and in this way was Jefferson Davis going forth to perfect his escape. No bonnet, no gown, no petticoats, no crinoline, no nothing of all these. And what there was happened to be excusable under ordinary circumstances and perfectly natural as things were. But it was too late for any effort to reach his horses, and the confederate president was at last a prisoner in the hands of the United States." Mr. Davis might increase the interest in his forthcoming book by telling the story of his capture in all its details.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
Business Transacted by the Board of Trustees.
The monthly meeting of the school trustees was presided over last evening by Mr. Levey, President. Matthews, being detained at home by indisposition. Superintendent Spook submitted a report of the examination in spelling held in the colored schools, in which the number of pupils examined was 3,457, and number correct 1,093. The average was 31.2 per cent. of correct results.

ing in the grades examined was as follows: Third grade, 64.1; fourth grade, 51.2; fifth grade, 54.2; sixth grade, 62.5; seventh grade, 64.9, and eighth grade, 59.4.

APPLICATIONS FOR POSITIONS AS TEACHERS

were read and filed from Misses Laura Donnay, Mary L. McDonald, Emily M. Dabney, Hattie E. Perry, Lucy M. Adams, Lizzie S. Wheeler, Anna S. Catlin, Mary E. Struther, Maude Bailey, Sarah E. Gordon, Margaret Clegg, Mrs. M. C. Massie, Misses Leonora Lavalette and Martha Jefferson, and Messrs. J. C. Gotwals, W. W. Cook and D.

W. L. Johnson. The resignations of Mr. J. M. Shippen and Misses Lillian Partridge, E. M. Williams, Carrie E. Lewis, and Louise A. Matthews were accepted.

FIGURES FROM THE SCHOOLS.

The reports of the superintendents for April showed: Number of pupils enrolled, 21,804; average daily attendance, 19,501; number of teachers, 458; cases of tardiness, 1,72; cases of corporal punishment, 71, and number of pupils dismissed, 13. Applications for janitors' positions were filed from E. G. Leafley and William Taliaferro. Mr.

cards presented the pamphlet from a committee of the Washington Hebrew Congregation relative to holidays, which was published in yesterday's REPUBLICAN. It was ordered to be placed on file. Communications relative to renting certain property for school purposes were read and filed from Mr. William Stiekney and Rev. W. E. Parson. Superintendent Wilson submitted a statement calling attention to the fact that in the new school building now in course of erection on F, between Sixth and Seventh streets, the arrangement of stairways and landings was not in accordance with

PROMOTIONS OF TEACHERS.
The committee on teachers recommended the following promotions, which were agreed to: Miss N. E. L. McLean, from third to fifth grade; Miss E. L. Duval, from second to third grade; and Miss Mary M. Dyer, from second to fourth grade. Bills amounting to \$14,250 were approved and ordered to be paid. Mr. Fairley presented a resolution, which was adopted, authorizing the sub-board of the sixth division to rent a vacated school-room

on the Queen's Chapel Road in the county.

A LETTER WAS READ

from Mr. Henry Johnson, in which he stated that he had declined to sign a note for April brought home by his children—who had been marked "absent Good Friday and Easter Monday." It was not in spirit with a resolution adopted by the school to the effect that absence from school on those days should not be to the prejudice of the pupil. The letter was referred to the committee on rules.

Mr. Fairley submitted reports from the committee on rules relative to reports of teachers and

the furnishing of substitutes by visiting teachers, which were laid over for discussion until the next regular meeting.

◆

For Free Trade.

LONDON, May 16.—*The Times*, in its financial article, says it thinks there is a growing opinion, which opinion it approves, that the British Government should not attempt to bargain with France about a new commercial treaty, but should abandon the negotiations unless there is a distinct understanding that any modification of the

to push the world in the more, instead of less, in the direction of free trade.